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## GEMS OF THE NEXT GENERATION

by Laurie A. Monroe

I recently attended the annual Institute of Noetic Sciences Conference held at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. A profound statement by one of the speakers etched itself into my memory: "Those who are in a position of leadership, of any kind, need to make decisions that are based upon seven generations from today." I resonated completely with that powerful message. Presently, the future of this planet—and of all of the species that inhabit it—depends upon the generation now coming into adulthood. Now is the time to assist them in identifying and achieving their goals. I feel that fostering and encouraging a shift in consciousness among teenagers is of paramount importance. Out of concern and compassion for this younger generation, we have created the *Teen GATEWAY VOYAGE*®.

The inaugural program took place during the last week of July.

There were fourteen participants—seven of each gender. Each teen completed a confidential application and mailed it directly to TMI, separately from information provided by their parents. This allowed them to answer our questions openly and honestly. The application process was the first step in creating a safe place for them to express their feelings. The most prevalent desire or expectation was the need to be liked, accepted, understood, and loved. Several participants wanted greater self-confidence and self-esteem. As with most teenagers, there was a tendency to "push the envelope" in many different ways. In this program, they were pushing the envelope of their perceived limitations and beliefs. The group bonded quickly, and the older teens made a point of including and engaging the younger ones.

Comments on the program evaluations revealed that tremendous openings had occurred during the week. The participants gave their permission to share these examples:

*TEEN GATEWAY* participants and TMI Trainers gathered around the tree planted in honor of Dave Wallis to pose for a farewell photo.

*During this time that we have been here at The Monroe Institute, I have gone through what some might call "an awakening." I believe strongly that every one of us was brought here for a strong definite reason. For some, like me, it was to find themselves. I am sure that everyone here has noticed us as flowering into a great garden that will soon be adults. I'm sure that I speak for everyone when I say that this was a much-needed experience that will be remembered with fond memories for our lifetimes. I really hope that we will have this opportunity again next year. ~ Sarah Beth Gallenberger*

*I thought that this experience was one of the most influential lessons that I have learned in my life. I learned about friendships with others and a stronger relationship with myself. I think that the program was great, and I would readily jump at the opportunity to attend another teen program. I found that I wish that I had more time here to learn some more about myself, but it is important to continue my learning process on my own. I feel very grateful that I was given the opportunity to participate in a great program such as this.* ~ Andy Vasquez

*This week was a great way to experience me as I really am. I had a vague idea of what the program was about when I first got here. As the week progressed, I was able to make lots of new friends—the most important friend being myself. I had an excellent time.* ~ Felicia Potter

*I feel this week has been one of the most positive and exhilarating events I have ever played a part in, in my entire life. This last week in the VOYAGE program has helped me find out who I really am, as well as grow toward a more positive self and future. I am glad that we teenagers are now being included in the TMI programs. I truly enjoyed being a part of the maiden voyage of the TEEN GATEWAY and thank you for having such a positive impact on my life!!!* ~ Justin Singletary

*The TEEN GATEWAY has been a life-changing experience for me. I am very grateful for the opportunity to spend a week with a group of my peers interested in exploring all aspects of their consciousness. To explore these aspects of my own consciousness was a thrilling, enlightening experience. I enjoyed learning about parts of myself that I was not even aware of. I hold all of you in my heart in love and gratitude and, in my opinion, consider this GATEWAY a huge success.* ~ Lisa Dietrich

*I was able to become more aware of my nonphysical self and to experience a new state of consciousness . The program served as a fun time but also served as an educational, learning experience. The experience I shared at the TEEN GATEWAY was extremely memorable to me and a voyage that I will never forget.* ~ Kendra Lansing

We have certainly laid the foundation for these young people to continue to explore, experience, expand, and express the true essence of who they are. They now have the tools to turn their beliefs into Knowns. Both curiosity and the desire to search out new experiences have been kindled. Once again, the GATEWAY VOYAGE has opened the door to the inner, higher self and given participants the confidence to direct their thoughts, control their emotions, listen to their intuition, and grasp abstract concepts. These teens now have a head start on exercising their brains through the greater part of who they really are—spirit—that will serve them well on their journey through physical reality. Perhaps the echo of their awakening will be heard by the seventh generation!

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